

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: OMNITEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	DOCKET NO. TCU-99-32
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ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION

(Issued November 24, 1999)

On August 31, 1999, Farmers Mutual Telephone Company of Nora Springs (Farmers Mutual) filed to amend its application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity pursuant to IOWA CODE § 476.29 (1999) to expand its service territory to include the Saint Ansgar, Stacyville, Green, and Marble Rock exchanges served by GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE). On October 6, 1999 Farmers filed an amendment to its application requesting the Utilities Board (Board) grant the separate application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity of the entity OmniTel Communications, Inc. (OmniTel), rather than granting Farmers Mutual's application to expand its service territory. Farmers Mutual stated it recently incorporated OmniTel as a wholly-owned subsidiary. OmniTel intends to provide service in the Ansgar, Stacyville, Green, and Marble Rock exchange areas currently served by GTE. OmniTel provided evidence of its technical, financial, and managerial ability and stated it would concur in GTE's maps on file for the exchange areas. OmniTel also stated it will offer intraLATA and interLATA dialing parity. No objections were filed.

IOWA CODE § 476.29(2) (1999) provides that the local exchange carrier shall not be denied a certificate if the Board finds that the applicant "possesses the technical, financial, and managerial ability to provide the service it proposes to render and the board finds the service is consistent with public interest." The Board has carefully reviewed OmniTel's application and finds it has demonstrated that it has the necessary technical, financial, and managerial ability to provide local exchange service. It is in the public interest to grant a certificate to OmniTel Communications, Inc.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity filed by OmniTel Communications, Inc., on August 31, 1999, is granted, subject to the requirements that follow.
2. Upon approval of tariffs to reflect the prices, terms, and conditions of local exchange service in Iowa offered by OmniTel, the Board will issue a certificate.
3. OmniTel's concurrence in the exchange maps of GTE Midwest Incorporated is approved.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

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Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 24th day of November, 1999.